GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2925
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Delivery Through Postal Network
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has signed agreements with various organisations including financial institutions and e-commerce companies to deliver their products through postal networks;

(b) if so, the details of agreements so signed;

(c) whether India Post proposes to augment their parcel handling capacity to cater to the e-commerce demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the investment made/proposed to be made therein; and

(e) whether the Government has any plan to make postal savings and other financial products more attractive and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. The postal circles under the Department of Posts have entered into various agreements under the 'Book Now Pay Later' (BNPL) scheme for delivery of articles through Speed Post, Registered Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel etc. As per information received from the Circles, 7218 agreements have been signed by the Circles in the last three years. At the Directorate level, agreements have been signed with UTI Asset Management Company Pvt. Ltd for doing mutual fund business and with Western Union Services India Pvt. Ltd. for international money remittance.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. The Department of Posts has augmented its parcel handling capacity in order to cater to the rising e-commerce demand. Accordingly, 57 Integrated Parcel Booking Centres have been established and infrastructure of 27 Parcel Booking Centres has been upgraded in the country during 2013-14 to 2015-16. The total expenditure made in this regard during the above mentioned period is Rs. 22.58 Crores. The Department has also undertaken the Parcel Network Optimization Project in order to consolidate its processing, transport and delivery systems through process redesigning and performance management. The total outlay for providing consultancy for the project is Rs. 8.25 crore.

(e) Yes Madam. With a view to making postal savings and other financial products attractive and convenient, the Department of Posts has rolled out Core Banking Solution (CBS) in 21664 post offices and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at 922 post offices.

The Department has also been issued a license for a Payments Bank to provide basic banking services such as acceptance of demand deposits like current and savings accounts upto a balance of Rs. 1.00 Lakh, various payments including social security payments, person to person remittances and offer other financial products such as insurance, mutual funds, pensions, etc. through third party tie-ups with banks and financial service providers especially in rural areas and among the under banked segments of society.

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